NEWS LETTER

Shore Line

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Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Center Acquires Ten Microfilm Readers

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Shoreline
Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture

Rebecca F. Miller, Director

Mondays 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
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Microfilm Readers Expected 4th of March

The Research Center is pleased to announce that we have placed an order for ten (yes, TEN) new microfilm readers. This event has generated excitement among our many users of microfilm. Just imagine: No more waiting to gain access to a reader. There should always be a reader available to use. Now we will be able to have seminar classes use the Research Center en masse. Primary research should be at an all-time high.

The new readers will be manually powered and similar to the one we have, except the controls will be accessible from a sitting position and the magnification will be greater than our existing machine.

LDGS and RCDHAC Undertake "Potpourri Project"

The Research Center, in conjunction with the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society, is soliciting and collecting copies of information for publication which people have in their possession concerning any families and history of the Delmarva Peninsula. Initially, notice of the project was sent to LDGS members and friends. To date, we have assembled enough material for the initial publication which is scheduled to be available for sale at the LDGS symposium on 13 April 1996. The publication will also be sold at the Research Center.

The types of records appearing in the first edition will be:

- Bible records
- family histories and records
- cemetery listings
- biographies
- guardianship reports [more on this inside].

This may be merely the beginning of an immense historical opus, preserving Delmarva's family history in a public format.

If you have material to contribute toward this interesting project, please send it to the Research Center marked "Potpourri Project". Members of the genealogical society are handling the submissions. Should you have questions regarding the project, please call Pat Taylor at (410) 546-0314 or Betty Murrell (410) 749-7786. Pat and Betty have been diligently working to assemble the first volume.

SSU Graduate/Instructor Writes Civil War Book

Bart Rhett Talbert, a 1986 graduate of Salisbury State University and current instructor of history here, in 1995 had published *Maryland The South's First Casualty*. Mr. Talbert received his Master of Arts in history from James Madison University in 1991 and is a doctoral candidate in history from the University of Alabama. He is a native of St. Mary's County.

This well-documented book is a "must read" for Maryland Civil War buffs. Prof. Talbert asserts: "In examining the facts surrounding the part played by Maryland in the American Civil War, I have endeavored to find out why Maryland did not follow Virginia, her sister Southern state, out of the Union--what were the unique problems faced by a non-seceding Border Slave State, and what was the magnitude and significance of the contributions of Marylanders in the war effort, both North and South." Prof. Talbert's book is available at the SSU Book Rack (543-6085) and other local retailers.

The Research Center has an extensive collection of Delmarva Civil War sources

public and private, primary and secondary sources. Come see what we have to offer.

During the Fall Semester, Prof. Talbert's Civil War class researched and worked on a census project here at the Research Center.

Local History Re-created: Wintermester Class Held in Research Center

For fifteen undergraduate and graduate students the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture was home during the Wintermester 1996 as they struggled with the novelty of interpreting seventeenth century handwriting, archaic terminology, and the opportunity of resurrecting long lost individuals to the pages of history. During the short January Term, Dr. G. Ray Thompson worked with students as they accepted the task of coming to grips with understanding a microcosm of Chesapeake history. During long days, evenings, and weekends, students struggled through hundreds of microfilms of documents dealing with Bogerternorton Hundred, one of the taxable divisions of Old Somerset County, MD, the majority of the students concentrating on the period 1670-1720. Among the papers which emerged were several socio-economic studies as well as a number of biographical accounts of early settlers of the Seaside area of Old Somerset. Using only primary documentation, students were given the task of re-creating life during the late seventeenth century in one specific area of the Delmarva Peninsula--the first generation of settlers of Bogerternorton Hundred. The novice historians discovered just how laborious the task of interpreting primary documents can be without the aid of secondary accounts. After the intensive research project, the students agreed that they had a new appreciation of the historian's craft and that, coincidentally, what had initially seemed a formidable task was actually fun as well as educational, an undertaking which they will not soon forget.

One student chose to look at the inventories of women during the period. 1680-1720 in an effort to discover the social and economic situations in which women found themselves during that formative period of Delmarva's history. Another student did a sampling of inventories of individuals of all levels of wealth during the late seventeenth century in order to determine what commonalities there were for all settlers and what things might be found only in homes with varying levels of wealth. That student discovered that wealth did not necessarily mean abundance of possessions. Several students did in-depth examinations of the records to try to draw as complete a picture as possible of specific individuals in seventeenth century Somerset (later, Worcester County). Yet others used Snow Hill Presbyterian Sessions Records, land records, inventories, and wills to draw conclusions as to the economic composition of the ruling elders of that religious community during the mid-eighteenth century. One student set out to do a "genealogy" of the land, tracing the movement of a piece of land through various families over the first hundred years of settlement. That proved to be a formidable task, which in the process of the research, led the student to consider the social fabric which existed within the tightly-interwoven network of families in Bogerternorton Hundred.

In less than four weeks students started with only a minimal knowledge of local history--and even less understanding of Bogerternorton Hundred (the area which today encompasses Ocean City-Berlin)--and parlayed that knowledge into a series of well-documented papers which will hopefully serve as the beginning of a continuing study which will seek to clarify the socio-economic framework of early Delmarva. Using the microcosm theory that only by understanding the smallest local area and its inhabitants can one come to a realistic understanding of the total picture of life on the lower eastern shore of Delmarva during the early colonial period, students searched through every available records for their chosen subject. Tax records, judicial records, land records, provincial court records, county will, inventory, bond and accounts records, views and estimates of the orphans court, as well as religious records, economic ledgers, and a number of obscure public records unique to the lower eastern shore served as the sources for the students.

Initially often frustrated, the students quickly came to see the task ahead of them and developed a spirit of collegiality, in their searches, finding materials useful to their fellow students which they would then share with their peers. The result was a very exciting--indeed exhilarating--and exhausting Wintermester. Hindered only by snow and the lack of microfilm machines (soon to be rectified), students made use of the Research Center from the time it opened each morning until closing time, which, during the Wintermester, was usually 10:00 or 10:30 p.m. each evening. Weekends saw the same sort of frantic workings, with students at the Research Center by 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning to resume their search into the elusive inhabitants of early Delmarva.

Several of the students have agreed to present their papers at the annual student research symposium, an event sponsored annually by the history department for the past several years. This year's papers will be collected and published by the Research Center. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the results of this exciting work should contact the Director, Rebecca Miller at (410) 543-6312.

Lyon Donates Computer and Peripherals to RCDHAC

We are happy to report the generous donation of a computer and accompanying peripherals to the Research Center. John Lyon of Columbia, MD offered us his computer after he read in our last newsletter about our inability to run the Personal Ancestral File program on our current equipment. We certainly now have the capability of running PAF, but equally important, for the first time we have our collections catalog on one computer. The computer is equipped with a CD-ROM drive. Now we can use--for the first time--the following compact discs:

- U.S. Census Index Series - 1790

- Pre-1790 Colonial America Census Index
- Marriage Records Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina
- Marriage Records Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee
- Marriage Records Southern States Vol. 1 Early-1850
- Marriage Records Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas

This gift was truly a giant step forward for the Research Center.

New Special Collections at RCDHAC

(Note: numbering seemingly not in consecutive order as some of these collections are books)

95.47 **Mary Gay Calcott.** 15 piece collection of antique clothing
95.49 **Matt Adams.** 37 pp. Genealogy of the Pusey Family, cemetery records
95.50 **Carolyn A. Lowman.** Baltimore Riots of 1861; Establishment of the Church of England (research papers)
95.51 **Laura Ellen Davis.** Research paper on Bounds Lott 1600-1936
95.52 **Fredrick L. Howard.** Research paper about Revell's Neck 1613-1947
95.55 **Adkins-Jones-Garland.** 18 pp. Photocopies of "Eastern Shor-isms"
95.56 **World War II Veterans' Collection** (from Westside Historical Society project)
95.58 **Kenneth K. Kirwan.** Extensive genealogical collection re Kirwan family of the E. Shore and allied families
95.59 **Wheatley Family Papers.** 3 original land patents
95.60 RCDHAC. 20 pp. Hitch Family Genealogy; 14 pp. "How Did Somerset County Compare with the State as a Whole in the Founding of Colonial Religions?"
95.61 **J. Frank Short.** 20 pp. Original receipts re dairy farming
96.03 **Jaime Stephens.** Research paper "The Indians of Old Somerset--The Growth of 'Spirit Wind'"

95.10 **Margaret Engle.** Two original Worcester County land patents: James Johnson, *The End of Dispute* (1818) and William Laws, Jr. *The Table Lands* (1826)

New Books at RCDHAC

Donated Monographs or Genealogies:

95.48 *The Ames Family of Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia, Past and Present,* Emily Ames Briddell
95.53 Grace S. Chaires Collection:
The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Charles B. Clark 3 Vols. 1950
Maryland. Stories from Her History, L. Magruder Passano 1905
Tidewater Maryland, Paul Wilstach 1931
Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Clayton Torrence 3d ed. 1973
Salisbury in Times Gone By, Richard W. Cooper 1991
Strickland More Particularly the Descendants of William George Strickland, Esther Birch Kelso, 1983
Chestertown: An Architectural Guide, 1985
The Wadeing Place A Study of Original Property Owners in Princess Anne, Maryland 1733-1771, Philip Morris 1974
Remember Way Back When, Ella M. Gibb, 1984
Steamboat'n n days & The Hammond Lot, John H.K. Shannahan, 1930
Maryland Manual 1916-1917, Secretary of State
Cove Dweller, Gilbert Byron 1948
Woman with a Sword, Hollister Noble 1948
The Government of Kent County, William R. Howell 1931
A *Sense of History*, American Heritage Press, 1985
A *Victorian Village*, Lizette W. Reese 1929
Old Kent, George A. Hanson 1936
History of Pocomoke City, James Murray, 1964
Notable Maryland Women, Winfred G. Helmes, ed. 1977

95.54 Gail M. Walczyk. *A Record of Baptisms on the Accomack Circuit*, Gail M. Walczyk
Hollands Islands' Disappearing, Walczyk
Report and Journal of Proceedings of the Joint Commission to Adjust the Boundary of the States of Maryland and Virginia, Walczyk

95.57 *Genealogy of the Dirickson Family*, Melanie Ayres Merryweather, 1995
Worcester County Coffins, Merryweather
The Dale Family, Merryweather

96.01 Carey Collection. *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*, Charles B. Clark

96.02 Nancy Harrold. *From Edentowne to Bethlehem*, W.F. Ewing; *Poems*, Rev. John W. Wootten

91.23 *Early American Architecture From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period*, Hugh Morrison, 1952
A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America, Ivor Noel Hume, 1991

Maryland Revolutionary Records: How to Find Them & Interpret Them, Raymond B. Clark, Jr. 1976

Index to Accomack County, Virginia Wills 1790-1850, compiler unknown, (copy)

88.42 " The Sterlings of Crisfield, Maryland", *The Sterling Genealogy*, Albert M. Sterling, 1909 (copy)

90.17 *Maryland's Historic Somerset*, Board of Education, Somerset County, 1955 (copy)

93.20 *Methodist Protestant Church Cemetery* [Mt. Vernon U.M.--Sharptown], Carolyn A. Adkins, 1995

New Purchases

Marriage References Dorchester County, Maryland 1780-1867, B. Jean Woolston, Compiler

As Various As Their Land The Everyday Lives of Eighteenth-Century Americans, Stephen G. Wolf, 1994

Chesapeake Conflict The Troublesome

Early Days of Maryland, Gene Williamson, 1995

The 1850 Slave Inhabitants Schedule of Accomac County, Virginia, Celestine G. Koger, 1995

Conservation and Preservation Services Offered at RCDHAC

Due to popular request, the Research Center will offer minor conservation and preservation services to our readers. We were reluctant to offer this service last semester because of the Research Center's backlog of collections requiring conservation. At this point we are ready to assist others.

Since conservation materials are so expensive, we find it necessary to charge a fee for conservation of historical documents not donated to us. Our experience is that an average of two hours may be spent in the conservation of an old document. The charge will be a flat fee of $35 per document. This fee is inclusive of labor, cleaning and minor repair, deacidification and encapsulation.

Will you donate these?

We have been fortunate in recent donations of "oldies but goodies" volumes appertaining to Delmarva which we did not have. Here are several books we do not have but would be greatly appreciative if they were donated:

County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia 1632-1640, ed. Susie M. Ames, 1954

County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia 1640-1645, ed. Susie M. Ames, 1973

Ames, Mears and Allied Lines, Lucy Ames Edwards, Nannie Ames Mears, 1967

The Entailed Hat, George Alfred Townsend

Delaware A Bicentennial History, Carol E. Hoffecker, 1977

New Sweden on the Delaware, Christopher Ward, 1938

Liberty and Independence The Delaware State During the American Revolution, Harold B. Hancock, 1976

Things We Need

Donation of research materials is an important way our collections grow. Not only do users have the benefit of resources to use, but donors are able to deduct the fair market value of the materials donated. It is a situation where all come out ahead. Examples of resources that will enhance the value of our collections are the following:

- books and other materials printed on the Delmarva Peninsula or by Eastern Shore authors;
- genealogical and local historical society newsletters, magazines and other publications;
- local telephone books, especially those from the 1920's and 1930's;
- privately and commercially published family histories and other products of family history research;
- genealogical charts;
- collections of photographs and/or manuscripts, whether organized or not;
- research materials in CD-ROM format;
- historical and genealogical reference books.

We want to encourage you to donate such materials to the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. They will be cataloged for the largest group of potential users possible, and will receive high quality professional care in our facility.

We have a broad policy to govern the receipt and handling of donated research materials. The major provisions are as follows:

- the Research Center will retain and process only the materials that fall within its collecting guidelines. We are unable to keep everything, and will limit ourselves to items pertaining to the Delmarva Peninsula
- every item in a gift will become available for public use without restriction. The Research Center does not have the space to become a storage facility. Purely personal materials, such as cancelled checks, will be accepted only after the donor understands that anyone may look at them.
- special bookplates and other memorial markings will be used only if they will not damage the materials or detract from their value.
- **staff cannot assign values to gift materials**; Internal Revenue Service regulations prohibit University personnel from assessing or otherwise determining gift value. It is the donor's responsibility to employ and pay a qualified independent appraiser. (The fee is also deductible.)

With your help as a donor of research materials, the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture will grow and improve. You will be a good friend, indeed. And your materials will be lovingly cared for and preserved for posterity.

Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep the Research Center open on Monday nights until 9:00 p.m. They are: Carolyn Adkins, Phil Goldsborough, MaryBeth Long, Betty Murrell, Jeff Pilchard, Emalu Simpson, Linda Sterling, Lloyd and Lucy Whitehead. Polly Batchelder reports every Tuesday to continue her work on cataloging our Somerset County microfilm collection.

Researching Our Records

This is a new feature page we hope to include in each issue of Shore Line. We would like to demonstrate the value of primary research and the unique items one can find. The following items were found in Somerset County deed books. They are not indexed in the grantee/grantor indices and therefore are hard to find. These are reports by guardians of orphans to the court on the estate of the orphan. After the Revolutionary War, this type of record is routinely found in the Orphan's Court records. The description of the premises of a colonial property is of great historical significance. We hope you will find these verbatim transcriptions of interest. The Liber and folio number of the entry is in brackets after each section of text.

This is to certify that we the Subscribers Returns the view of a plantation and building Orchard and fencing belonging to Michaell Roach Orphan in the possession of Charles Roach gardan to one dwelling house twenty foot Long and Sixteen foot wide single covered and Leckey and forty five Appell trees small and two hundred and twenty Pannels of old fence a small Quantity of Clear ground and the year Rent we value twenty Shillings Curt. Money of Maryland given under our hand and seals this 7th day July 1739.

John Sterlin [his mark]
John Davis

Record this 18th day of July 1739 [MF:75]

Somerset County

The Subscribers being Required to view the two plantations belonging to James Furnis Jr a minor under the guardianship of James Furnis Senr do hereby Certifie that we have so done and do find on the plantation whereon Isaac Holland lives one dwelling house a Kitchen and milk house and one Logd house all In good Repair one Old house we do think not worth repair also a young Orchard and all the fence on the said Plantation in good Order the annuall vallue of the whole we Judg to be five pounds fifteen shillings and Eight pence Curr. Money toward the maintanance of the Orphan afd without any Allowance for the Rent due to the Lord propty -- And we do also find on the other Plantation belonging to the Orphan afd a small Orchard and the fence in good Order the Annuall value of the same we Judge to be forty shillings Curr money to be applied as afd without any Allowance as afd given under our hands and Seals this 10th day of September 1742

Aaron Tillman [his mark A]
Joseph Tillman [his mark I]

These are to certifie whom it may concern that the Subscribers a majestrate for the County afd for the time being have on the Land above mentioned adminstred the Oath Required by Act of Assembly to be taken unto Aaron Tillman and Joseph Tillman and hereby attest the Return afd the day Above . Sam. Wilson

Recorded this twenty first day of November Anno Dom 1742 Thos Hayward Cl [X:26]

Somerset

In Pursuance to the directions of an Act of Assembly in Such Cases made and Provided In Relation to the viewing of the houses and plantation of John Nelson Dec'd now in the Guardianship of William More and Thomas Shiles we the Subscribers nominated and being appointed by Mitchell Dashiell Esq. To view and valley the houses fences and Orchards on the same Plantation Belonging to the three daughters of the afd John Nelson dec'd Sarah Eliz.a & Alice Nelson viz One old Dwelling house with two Brick Chimeys and wants to be repaired one old milk houses almost Ready to fall down about five hundred Pannells of fence the greatest part of it old about forty Apple trees a few old Peach trees and a few Quinch trees. We the Subscribers do adjudge that the hole Plantation with the Appurtenances thereto belonging to be of the value of fifty Shillings p year inclusive of two thirds and Quit Rents given under our hands and this 4th day of September 1742

Levin Dashiell
Henry Dashiell

Recorded this twenty first day of November Anno Dom one thousand seven hundred forty two Thomas Hayward Cl [X:27]

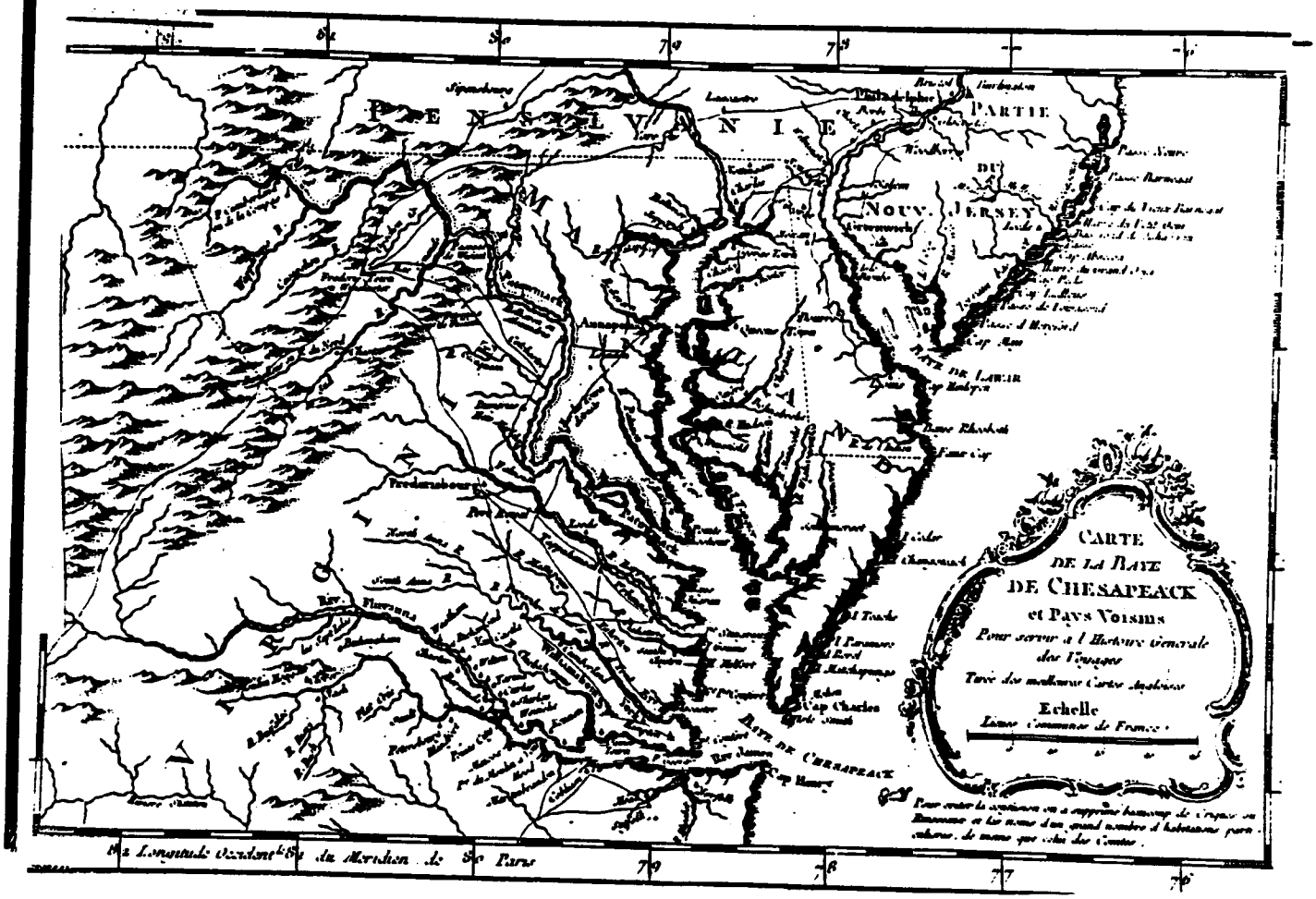
We the Subscribers mett on the plantation of James Dikes Son of George Dikes of Coventry parish and there being Duely Qualified According to an Act of Assembly we viewed the Dwelling houses and finds it Twenty foot Long and fifteen foot wide Butt noe upper floor Laid nor the wall not fild in we then viewed an other Small house of twelve ffoot Long and ten ffoot wide ffraims and Boards of Boath sound we Likewise viewed the Orchards and finds sixty and three Apple trees some of them Likely and some of them unlikely we also viewed the fence and finds five hundred and Seventy Pannells of old fence some Seven and some Eight Logs to a pannell Logs very rotten we saw Six hundred Sound Logs in the woods But fence we Could not Called we do find the yearly Rent to Amount to Seven Shillings and Six pence Currant money of Maryland Given under our hands and Seals this Eighteen day of September 1744

Sep ye 18 day 1744 This is to Certify that the within named persons was Qualified before me John Williams

James Trahern
William Adams

Recorded in Liber X No. 1 fol: 125 on the Twenty fifth day of November Anno Dom 1744 Thomas Hayward Cl

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER


PENSILVANIE
PARTIE DU NOUV. JERSEY
CARTE DE LA BAYE DE CHESAPEACK et Pays Voisins
Pour servir a l'Histoire Generale des Voyages
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BAYE DE CHESAPEACK

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